

FOOD PURCHASE REPORT

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

DATE: August 11, 2006

USDA TURKEY TACO FILLING PURCHASE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today announced plans to purchase frozen cooked turkey taco filling for school lunch and other domestic food nutrition assistance programs. Frozen cooked turkey taco filling must be produced from ground turkey (ready-to-cook nonbasted, young turkeys or turkey carcasses and parts, and turkey skin) and spices/seasonings. The commodity must be packaged in 3- to 5-pound (1.36- or 2.27-kg) packages to a net weight of 30 pounds (13.61 kg) in each fiberboard shipping container. A purchase unit will consist of 1,300 shipping containers totaling 39,000 pounds (17,690 kg). **Interested offerors must ensure that the Contracting Officer receives the technical proposal and two pre-bid samples not later than 1 p.m., Eastern Time, Friday, August 25, for evaluation. Announcement PY-311 and the Commodity Specification for Turkey Taco Filling dated July 2006 provide detailed instructions for submission of samples and the factors used for evaluation.**

Offers will be invited from approved suppliers only. Invitation No. 1, inviting offers from approved suppliers is being issued in the near future. Offers will be due by 12 noon, Central Time, Tuesday, Sept. 5 (due to the holiday on Monday for Federal employees). Acceptances will be announced by midnight, Friday, Sept. 8.

There are some important changes to this year's program. All packing materials must be tamper-evident. Additionally, all delivery units--truck lot and less-than-truck lot (LTL) quantities--must be secured at all times prior to unloading with tamper resistant, serially numbered, high-security seals. The contractor must maintain a record of each seal number used for truck lot and LTL delivery units. Additionally, the contractor must ensure that the applicable seal identification number is on each bill of lading, shipping manifest, certificate, or other delivery documents for each delivery destination. When LTL delivery units are transported on the same trailer and destined for multiple recipients, the trailer must be sealed after each delivery. The seal number must be recorded on the appropriate delivery documents and correspond with the applied seal at the time of arrival at the next destination.

All contractors and subcontractors must have a documented and operational food security plan that provides for the security of a plant's production processes. This plan will be audited by the USDA Graders.

All other certifications that apply strictly to Poultry Programs will still be made annually and are contained in Appendix-1. The certifications will be made one time only for all Poultry Program Announcements for the program year. All certifications, in the Online Representations and Certifications Application and Appendix-1, must be completed prior to submitting a bid.

Information regarding these requirements is contained in Announcement PY-311, which is being distributed to the trade. Offerors are urged to review the bid format and product specification and are cautioned to only offer quantities they can reasonably expect to produce and deliver during the contracted delivery period.

Offerors are urged to carefully read all applicable terms and conditions of USDA-1, as amended, Announcement PY-311, Appendix-1, the Commodity Specification for Turkey Taco Filling dated July 2006, and Invitation No. 1.

Inquiries may be made by telephoning (202) 720-7693 or addressing the Contracting Officer; USDA/AMS/Poultry Programs, Commodity Procurement Branch STOP 0260; 1400 Independence Ave., SW; Washington, DC 20250. An electronic version of this Food Purchase Report can be obtained through the world wide web via the Commodity Procurement Home Page at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/cp>.

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